

## Patent claims

1. A method for updating services in communication networks (ISDN, VoIP), particularly in packet-switching  
5 networks (VoIP), having communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) which use and provide the services in the communication network (ISDN, VoIP), with a plurality of communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2)  
10 providing an identical software-controlled service, where a communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) ascertains the services provided in the communication network (ISDN, VoIP) by other communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2),  
15 where, in cases in which both communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) provide identical services, the communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) interchange and compare  
20 information about the release of the software controlling the services, and where, in cases in which a different release is established, a software update is initialized.
- 25 2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the software is sent from the communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) with the more up-to-date release to the communication component  
30 (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) with the earlier release.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized  
35 in that the software with the more up-to-date release is sent from a third communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) providing this software to the communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11,

C1 - C3, S1, S2) with the earlier release.

4. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized

5 in that the comparison regarding the release of the software controlling the services is repeated at settable intervals of time.

5. A method for updating services in communication  
10 networks (ISDN, VoIP), particularly in packet-switching networks (VoIP), having communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) which use and provide the services in the communication network (ISDN, VoIP), with a plurality of communication  
15 components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) being able to provide an identical software-controlled service,

where a first communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) needs to activate a service  
20 in a second communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2),

where, in cases in which this service cannot be provided by the software on the second communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2), this  
25 service becomes available as a result of a software update on the second communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2).

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, characterized  
30

in that the service is provided by the first communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2).

35 7. The method as claimed in claim 6, characterized

in that the software is sent from the first communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3,

S1, S2) to the second communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2).

8. The method as claimed in claim 5,  
5 characterized  
in that the software is sent from a third communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) providing this software to the second communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2).

10  
9. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,  
characterized  
in that a software update is performed only in the  
15 cases in which the software to be transferred can be executed on the hardware of the communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) which receives the software.

20 10. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,  
characterized  
in that the updated software can be retrieved by  
further communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11,  
25 C1 - C3, S1, S2) and their services.

11. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,  
characterized  
30 in that at least one communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) in the communication network (ISDN, VoIP) holds software in a respective up-to-date release ready for retrieval for a plurality of services of different types.